

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are pending in the subject application. Claim 2 is allowed, and claim 1 is presently under rejection.

Claim 2 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

The Invention

The invention is a method for lithographic printing using a self-dampening lithographic ink composition including glycerol, a nonionic surfactant having a hydrophilic/lipophilic balance of about 8 to about 20, and water. There is no need for adding additional water or dampening solutions when the method of this invention is used for lithographic printing.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Rejection over Wasilewski, et al.:

Claim 1 has been rejected under §103(a) over Wasilewski, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,372,635). Wasilewski et al. discloses a printing ink composition that requires a dampening step, where tap water is used to wet the printing plate.

Since the lithographic printing method disclosed by Wasilewski et al. requires dampening (see, for example, column 2, lines 9-20), Wasilewski et al. does not suggest a method as claimed, where a **self-dampening** lithographic ink composition is used in order to **avoid** a dampening step. In the claimed method, there is no step where external water or solution is applied. In contrast, Wasilewski et al. is specifically directed to the use of a dampening step where tap water can be used rather than a special aqueous fountain solution (see column 1, lines 61-68 through column 2, lines 1-20). Further, Wasilewski et al. teaches applying water externally in a dampening step and not as part of the composition, which is therefore not self-dampening.

Moreover, while the Examiner opines that the Wasilewski et al. composition includes water formed when hydroxide is combined with a tall oil fatty acid to make the soap of tall oil fatty acid, Applicants disagree in that even if a small amount of water were present in the Wasilewski et al. composition, its presence is inadvertent and does

not teach adding water to a self-dampening lithographic ink composition, even less by this means making a **self-dampening** composition. All that Wasilewski et al. teaches with regard to water, is that it should be added externally, not that water be part of the ink composition.

Inasmuch as Wasilewski et al. does not teach or suggest Applicants' method for lithographic printing using a self-dampening lithographic ink composition containing water, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Rejection over Blair:

Claim 1 has been rejected under §103(a) over Blair (GB 1 336 356). Blair is directed to alcohol-in-oil emulsion ink compositions, which are essentially anhydrous (see, column 2 lines 25-28), and are considered to represent an advance over inks which contain water (in the form of water-in-oil emulsions, see column 2 lines 2-25). Blair does not teach or suggest a method for lithographic printing using a self-dampening lithographic ink composition ink which includes water, especially not where water is the dampening agent in the printing method. Blair, throughout, strongly teaches against water, only mentioning water in the composition as something which may unavoidably be formed. As Blair himself states:

"No water is necessary or desirable in the composition although a small amount of water...may be tolerated." (emphasis added, page 3, lines 56-60)

Accordingly, while Applicants' method for lithographic printing using a self-dampening lithographic ink composition **includes** water, the focus of Blair is to exclude water. Blair only mentions water to cover the possibility that his composition, although it is intended to be "substantially anhydrous" (page 3, line 65), might absorb a small amount of atmospheric water. This cannot be considered a teaching to intentionally add water in the composition, but rather a teaching to **exclude** water if at all possible.

Even less can this be considered a teaching to provide a printing method using a self-dampening composition where water is the dampening agent. In contrast, Applicants' method for lithographic printing using a self-dampening lithographic ink

composition employs water as the dampening agent (see specification, paragraph [0018] lines 1-2). The dampening function in Blair is performed not by water but by a substantially anhydrous polyhydric alcohol internal phase which contains at least two polyhydric alcohols (page 2 lines 45-51). In contrast, not only is water the dampening agent in Applicants' method, but the glycerol in the composition functions primarily as a stabilizer (see specification, paragraph [0017] lines 1-4).

Since Blair does not teach or suggest Applicants' method for lithographic printing using a self-dampening lithographic ink composition containing water, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Allowed Subject Matter

Allowance of claim 2 is gratefully acknowledged. Applicants respectfully point out that claim 2 is dependent on claim 1, and hope that the Examiner will upon reconsideration allow claim 1.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the amendments and the remarks provided herein adequately and completely address the Examiner's rejections. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Sidney Persley
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 34,898
Tel. (201) 224-4600, ext. 278

Sun Chemical Corporation
Law Division
222 Bridge Plaza South
Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024

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